



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 8, Issue #8

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

5 July 2013

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### **News from Above the Lakes**

No news to report this week. Please send your insect comments to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

### **News from Below the Lakes**

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that “with all of the rain this week, I have only been in a few fields. I did get back to the cotton field that I found aphids in last week and they have increased the area they are in, slightly. Checked some soybeans today [Wednesday], and I am seeing an increase in egg masses/immature kudzu bugs.”

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, reported that “Calhoun County cotton ranges from just getting the first bloom to just getting the second set of true leaves. Aphids can be found in most fields if you look hard enough, but it is too wet to do anything about it other than look. Ascochyta blight/leaf spot is visible in most fields, but target spot has not been found here yet. Most weed control looks fair up till now. I am sure there will be a lot of hand pulling going on in the next two weeks. A lot of Liberty went out on cotton last week and I have seen several instances of costly mistakes with Liberty on non-Liberty tolerant cotton. I have also seen how well Liberty will move across the landscape into yards and non-target areas, so advise growers to use caution around inhabited areas. It appears, however, to be doing a good job of killing weeds so far.”

### **News from the Piedmont/Upstate**

No news to report this week. Please send your insect comments to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

### **Cotton Situation**

As of 1 July 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at 97% planted, slightly behind where we were last year at 100% planted and the 5-yr average of 100% planted. About 17% of the crop has squared, compared with 39% this time last year and the 5-yr average of 37%. Conditions for the cotton crop were described as 2% very poor, 6% poor, 28% fair, 63% good, and 1% excellent. Soil moisture conditions as a whole for the state were described as 1% very short, 3% short, 78% adequate, and 18% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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### Current Cotton Insects

We are continuing to get reports of aphids and spider mites. Other than that, things are quiet. Monitor populations of those arthropods. These wet conditions will favor growth of aphid populations but should hinder populations of spider mites. Data from my pheromone traps here in Blackville (chart below) are indicating increased moth activity for bollworm. Any cotton planted early that is blooming should be scouted.

### Soybean Situation

As of 1 July 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the soybean crop at 90% planted, just behind where we were last year at 96% and the 5-yr average of 96% planted. About 60% of the soybean crop has emerged, well behind where we were last year at 89% and the 5-yr average of 85%. Conditions for the soybean crop were described as 1% very poor, 3% poor, 36% fair, 59% good, and 1% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### Current Soybean Insects

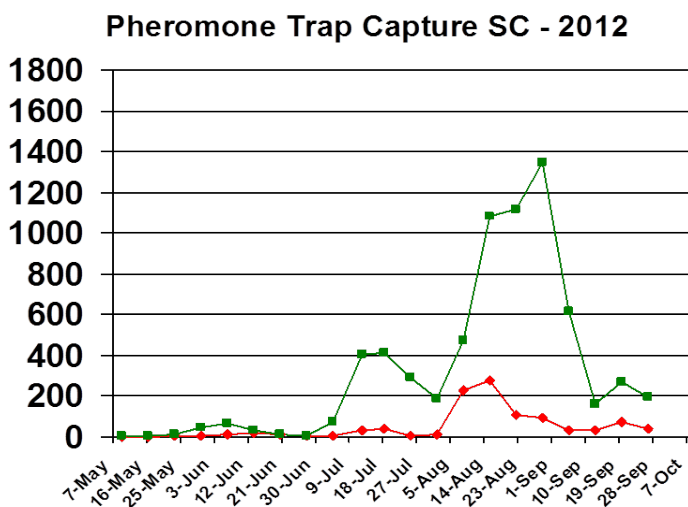
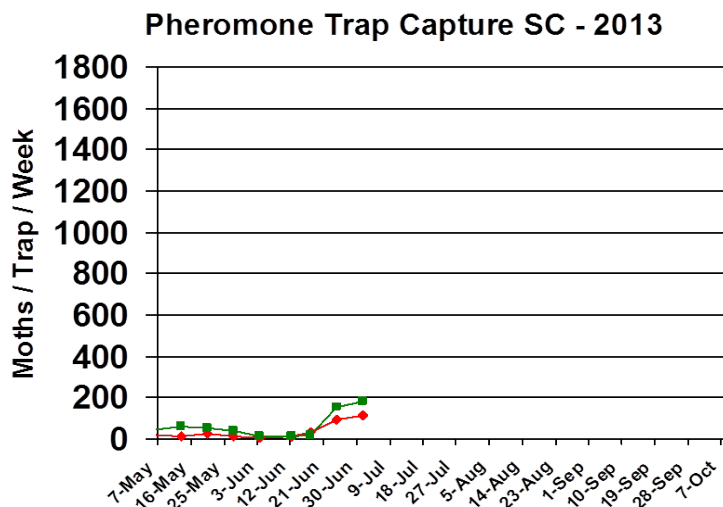
Numbers of tobacco budworm are increasing in our moth trapping program, so as our bean crop approaches flowering, we need to be aware of that. Pyrethroids applied for kudzu bugs or corn earworms will be ineffective on TBW. Kudzu bugs remain a valid concern. Scout individual fields.

### Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2012 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area as an indication of moth

presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



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### **Kudzu Bugs**

First-generation adults continue to migrate into fields now. The first population that we dealt with earlier this season was overwintered adults that moved into early-planted soybeans. Those adults deposited many eggs, and now those immatures are completing their development. We should see some significant infestations in the next few weeks. Treatment decisions should continue to be made on field-to-field basis. Because this species only completes two complete generations per year, we should be able to break the cycle with an insecticide application or two. Consult our online flip guide for recommendations on managing kudzu bugs: <http://digital.turn-page.com/i/87846>

The latest distribution for the kudzu bug in the southeastern USA can be viewed at the link below. **The species is now confirmed in Louisiana and Maryland.** Anytime you want to check the map, click on the link below, and you will be taken to the updated map:

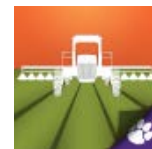
<http://maps.bugwood.org/eddmascustomcounty2.cfm?map=5&legend=bottom&height=600&width=550>

### **Pest Management Handbook - 2013**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2013 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

### **Sprayer Calibration Mobile App**

Download our free mobile app called “Calibrate My Sprayer” that helps check for proper calibration of spraying equipment (available in both iOS and Android formats): <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>



### **Need More Information?**

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:  
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